

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

Case No. 23-cv-24879-BLOOM/Torres

SHAUNNE SOUZA,

Plaintiff,

v.

NCL (BAHAMAS) LTD., *a Bermuda  
Company*, and NCL AMERICA LLC,

Defendants.

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**ORDER REQUIRING SCHEDULING REPORT  
AND CERTIFICATES OF INTERESTED PARTIES<sup>1</sup>**

**THIS CAUSE** is before the Court upon a *sua sponte* review of the record. **Within twenty-one (21) days of an appearance by a Defendant in this case**, the parties are directed to prepare and file a joint scheduling report, as required by Local Rule 16.1. The joint scheduling report and proposed order shall include all information required by Local Rule 16.1(b)(2) and (3). In addition, at the time of filing the joint scheduling report, the parties, including governmental parties, must file certificates of interested parties and corporate disclosure statements that contain a complete list of persons, associated persons, firms, partnerships, or corporations that have a financial interest in the outcome of this case, including subsidiaries, conglomerates, affiliates, parent corporations, and other identifiable legal entities related to a party (to the extent they have not already done so). Throughout the pendency of the action, the parties are under a continuing obligation to amend, correct, and update the certificates.

***Detailed Discovery Schedule:*** Local Rule 16.1(a) provides for a differentiated case

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<sup>1</sup> The parties must not include Judge Bloom and the assigned U.S. Magistrate Judge as interested parties unless they have an interest in the litigation.

management system based on the complexity of each case and the requirement for judicial involvement. That system categorizes cases along three case management tracks: expedited, standard, or complex.

- Expedited track cases are relatively non-complex, require 1 to 3 days of trial, and between 90 and 179 days for discovery from the date of the scheduling order.
- Standard track cases require 3 to 10 days of trial, and between 180 and 269 days for discovery from the date of the scheduling order.
- Complex track cases are unusually complex, require over 10 days of trial, and between 270 and 365 days for discovery from the date of the scheduling order.

“The following factors [are] considered in evaluating and assigning cases to a particular track: the complexity of the case, number of parties, number of expert witnesses, volume of evidence, problems locating or preserving evidence, time estimated by the parties for discovery and time reasonably required for trial, among other factors.” S.D. Fla. L.R. 16.1(a)(3).

Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1) allows discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party’s claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case, considering the importance of the issues at stake in the action, the amount in controversy, the parties’ relative access to relevant information, the parties’ resources, the importance of the discovery in resolving the issues, and whether the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit. The parties shall participate in good faith in developing a detailed discovery plan, including any agreed-upon limitation on scope, frequency and the extent of discovery. The parties shall include in their scheduling report any unique discovery matters, including any electronically stored information that should be preserved and accessed. The parties shall establish a detailed schedule for the preservation, disclosure and access of each different type or category of electronically stored information.

Consistent with the differentiated case management system, other relevant local rules (such as Local Rule 16.2, regarding mediation), and the twin goals of expeditious and attentive case

management, the Court anticipates the following scheduling deadlines in the run of cases:

- Selection of a mediator and scheduling of a time, date and place for mediation within 30 days of the scheduling order.
- Deadline to amend pleadings and join parties within 60 days of the scheduling order.
- Completion of all discovery consistent with the case management track guidelines, and 120 days prior to trial.
- Completion of mediation prior to the deadline for dispositive pre-trial motions.
- Deadline for dispositive pre-trial motions and *Daubert* motions (which include motions to strike experts) 100 days prior to trial.
- Deadline for submission of joint pre-trial stipulation, proposed jury instructions and verdict form, or proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, as applicable, 40 days prior to trial.
- Calendar call one week prior to trial.

Those deadlines are not exhaustive of deadlines which may be set in the scheduling order.

The parties should address their joint scheduling report and their proposed pre-trial deadlines both to the differentiated case management system and to the Court's anticipated deadlines. The parties are encouraged to explain their proposed deadlines in light of those overarching guidelines, including as to the factors listed in Local Rule 16.1(a)(3). **The parties are cautioned that if they fail to submit a joint scheduling report by the applicable deadline, the Court may unilaterally set this case on a case management track in accordance with Local Rule 16.1(a) and calculated as if the scheduling report had been timely filed.**

As part of the joint scheduling report, the parties shall jointly complete and file with the Court the *Election to Jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge for Final Disposition of Motions* appended to this Order as **Attachment A**. The Court will not accept unilateral submissions. A "Yes" should be checked only if all parties agree. If the parties consent to a full disposition of the case by the Magistrate Judge, including trial and entry of final judgment, the parties shall jointly file the *Election to Jurisdiction* form appended to this Order as **Attachment B**. The parties are advised that even if they do not consent to jurisdiction by the Magistrate Judge,

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in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b), the Court may still refer motions to the Magistrate Judge for a report and recommendations.

The parties are advised that the failure to comply with any of the procedures contained in this Order or the Local Rules may result in the imposition of appropriate sanctions, including, but not limited to, the dismissal of this action or entry of default.

**DONE AND ORDERED** in Chambers at Miami, Florida, on December 27, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JB' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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**BETH BLOOM**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

Copies to:

Counsel of Record

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

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NCL (BAHAMAS) LTD., *a Bermuda  
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Defendants.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**ELECTION TO JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR FINAL DISPOSITION OF MOTIONS**

In accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), the undersigned parties to the above-captioned civil matter hereby jointly and voluntarily elect to have a United States Magistrate Judge decide the following motions and issue a final order or judgment with respect thereto:

1. Motions for Costs	Yes _____ No _____
2. Motions for Attorney's Fees	Yes _____ No _____
3. Motions for Sanctions	Yes _____ No _____
4. Motions to Dismiss	Yes _____ No _____
5. Motions for Summary Judgment	Yes _____ No _____

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature—Plaintiff's Counsel or Plaintiff if *pro se*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature—Defendant's Counsel or Defendant if *pro se*)

**Attachment A**

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

**Case No. 23-cv-24879-BLOOM/Torres**

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\_\_\_\_\_ /

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE JURISDICTION FOR TRIAL**

In accordance with the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), the undersigned parties to the above-captioned civil matter hereby jointly and voluntarily elect to have a United States Magistrate Judge conduct any and all further proceedings in the case, including TRIAL, and entry of final judgment with respect thereto.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature—Plaintiff's Counsel or Plaintiff if *pro se*)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature—Defendant's Counsel or Defendant if *pro se*)

**Attachment B**